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IDEALIST

IDEA 0355-68

Copy 11 of 12

10 July 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT: IDEALIST Operational Concept
for Fiscal Year 1970

Attached is the IDEALIST Operational Concept
for Fiscal Year 1970.



Deputy for Operations, OSA

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Attachments - 2

1. IDEALIST Operational Concept for FY-70
2. Forecast Flying Hours FY-70

C/IDEA/OSA [redacted] (10 Jul 68)

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Attachment 1

IDEALIST OPERATIONAL CONCEPT

FISCAL YEAR 1970

1. Mission and Mission Planning:

a. Mission: To conduct covert reconnaissance (photographic and electronic) over denied and hostile territory, or peripheral reconnaissance, on a world-wide basis in support of the national intelligence objectives of the United States.

b. Areas over which aerial reconnaissance is to be conducted are determined by the National Intelligence Community as expressed by USIB and COMIREX.

c. Mission planning and control of reconnaissance flights will be accomplished by Project Headquarters within the limits imposed by approval authorities.

2. Requirements:

a. It is assumed that the life expectancy of the U-2 will extend beyond FY-70 and that the requirements of the Intelligence Community will not change appreciably from that which exist at the present time.

b. The requirements for U-2 operational missions may be grouped into two general categories:

(1) Strategic covert reconnaissance of areas not heavily defended by surface-to-air missiles. Included in this category are certain areas of Communist China, the Sino-Indian Border, Indonesia, Cambodia, etc.

(2) Prompt coverage of crisis situations. Included in this category are situations similar to those previously experienced in areas such as Cyprus, India/Pakistan, Lebanon and Cuba.

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c. Presently identified target areas and specific targets in Communist China will require approximately 72 U-2 operational missions to provide target coverage at the frequency desired by USIB.

d. It is assumed that at least twelve additional missions will be required in FY-70 to obtain coverage of targets in other areas of the world.

e. Experience has indicated that intelligence requirements are seldom satisfied. Although requirements may dictate eighty-four operational missions in FY-70, it can be assumed that unfavorable weather, political considerations and other factors will combine to preclude completion of desired target coverage. It is forecast that 36 operational missions will be accomplished during FY-70. It is noted, however, that should IDEALIST assets be employed in a tactical situation, this number of operational missions would increase appreciably.

3. Assets:

a. Detachment "G" is permanently located at Edwards Air Force Base, California, but is required to maintain the capability to conduct operational missions as may be required anywhere in the world. Additionally, this detachment retains the responsibility for the conduct of continuing development programs for new equipment and tactics, and for the training of replacement personnel.

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c. To establish a quick-reaction U-2 mission launch and/or recovery capability at [redacted] Project IDEALIST has pre-positioned selected materiel assets, including fuel, at that base.

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4. Mission Equipment: A requirement exists for continued improvement of collection systems, detection systems and defensive systems in order to maintain an operational mission capability against the improving air defense posture of the opposition.

a. The Itek rotating optical bar camera will be added to the IDEALIST inventory during FY-69 and it is expected that the Itek Delta III camera and Hycon "B" camera will be dropped from the IDEALIST operational inventory. It is anticipated, however, that at least one camera of each type will be required to support continuing flight tests of new film, filters, etc. (Red Dot)



5. Deployment:

a. [REDACTED] is responsible for obtaining coverage of all COMINT targets in North Korea and in mainland China, except those located in the Sino-Indian border area. Although the increased range capability of the U-2R will permit coverage of distant targets on round-robin missions [REDACTED] such missions would be of maximum duration. To reduce pilot fatigue and increase mission safety on those missions, it is expected that the detachment will be [REDACTED] approximately once each quarter during FY-70. Each deployment should be of approximately fifteen days duration.

b. All operational missions flown by Detachment "G" will launch/recover at an operating location other than Edwards Air Force Base. In addition to four deployments for the

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purpose of conducting operational missions, it is anticipated that the detachment will be overtly deployed twice during FY-70 to establish the presence of the U-2 and to render support for the cover story employed during operational deployments. It is forecast that operational deployments will be of approximately thirty days duration and the overt deployments will be for fifteen days duration.

c. It is expected that at least once during FY-70 the detachment will be required to operate from a U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier.

d. KC-135 Aircraft will be used for communications and air rescue support and to provide transportation for the enroute support kit and enroute support personnel for each overwater deployment requiring more than one ferry flight.

6. Operational Mission Concept:

a. Missions will average seven hours in duration.

b. Of the forecast thirty-six (36) operational missions, four will use the Hycon "H" camera and the remainder will use the Itek rotating optical bar camera.

c. The T-35 tracker camera will be carried on all operational missions.

d. , or suitable replacements, will be utilized on all operational missions.

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e. Systems XII, XIII, XX and Oscar Sierra Mark III, or suitable replacements, will be required on all operational missions.

f. The U-2R will be utilized on all operational missions and the U-2C/G aircraft will be retained in the inventory for use in tests of new equipment and training of new pilots.

g. Although operational missions will be flown when weather in the target area will permit, for the purpose of this paper they will be flown at the rate of three per month.

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h. All operational missions over ChiCom territory, whenever feasible, will have a minimum penetration altitude of 69,000 feet and planned for random turns as additional protection against enemy interceptors.

7. Aircraft:

a. A minimum of nine aircraft are required to provide the flying hours required to conduct operational missions, train replacement pilots and to maintain the operational ready status of assigned mission pilots.



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c. The remaining U-2R aircraft, plus three U-2C/G aircraft, will be assigned to Detachment "G".

d. It is assumed that aircraft will be lost through attrition at the rate of one each twelve months and that at the beginning of FY-70 the IDEALIST inventory will consist of five U-2R aircraft and three U-2C/G aircraft. It is also assumed that one of the U-2C/G aircraft will be lost sometime during FY-70. Therefore, the forecast of U-2C/G flying hours is based on an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft available during FY-70.

8. Flying Hours:

a. Flying hours accomplished, and techniques employed during operational reconnaissance missions, will be credited to the training program for the detachment and the individuals concerned. In addition, a continuous flying training program will be conducted by each detachment to assure the capability to conduct reconnaissance operations on a world-wide basis.

b. Flying hours required to perform operational missions and to maintain pilot proficiency are based on the following criteria:

- (1) Thirty hours per month for each mission pilot until an operational ready status is attained.

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(2) Twenty hours per month for each operationally ready mission pilot until he has a total of 200 flying hours in the U-2.

(3) A minimum of ten hours per month for each mission pilot after he has a total of 200 hours in U-2 aircraft.

(4) Each maintenance flight test pilot will require a minimum of ten hours per month to retain the desired level of proficiency.

c. Forecast flying hours for FY-70 are computed on the basis of thirty-five hours per month for each aircraft assigned to Project IDEALIST.

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Attachment 2

FORECAST FLYING HOURS

FISCAL YEAR 1970

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1ST QTR 2ND QTR 3RD QTR 4TH QTR

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B. Detachment "G" (U-2R):

Operational	21	21	21	21
Training	219	219	219	219
Test	45	45	45	45
Ferry	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>
Totals	315	315	315	315

C. Detachment "G" (U-2C/G):

Operational	0	0	0	0
Training	202	202	202	202
Test	60	60	60	60
Ferry	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	262	262	262	262